

to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District has made this organization the well respected entity that it is within the San Luis Valley and Colorado.

Because he grew up on—and later managed—his family's ranch in Saguache, Ralph has long been aware of the importance of water to the San Luis Valley. Under his direction, the district took a leadership role in fighting against the American Water Development Inc. water grab, in water conservation education and in pro-active efforts on behalf of endangered species such as the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.

Ralph's community contributions have not gone unmarked either. He has been honored with numerous awards such as: the Wayne Aspinall Water Leader of the Year, San Luis Valley Wetlands Stewardship Award, Friend of 4-H, Distinguished Service Award for Conservation of Natural Resources, Support of Colorado Association of Soil Conservations Districts, and he was inducted into the Honorable Order of the Water Buffalo.

Ralph has always looked ahead to the next challenge, has always looked forward to the next hill, in order to see where the road will lead him. I would like to wish Ralph and his wife Gloria the very best as they walk down that new road together looking for new challenges.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO JAY DAVIDSON

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute and congratulate Jay Davidson on his reception of an America Honors Recovery Award given to him by the Johnson Institute, a nationally recognized organization dedicated to helping people overcome alcohol and substance addiction.

Mr. Davidson has dedicated his life to the cause of fighting addiction. He does this by serving as the president and CEO of The Healing Place, based in Louisville, KY. Under Mr. Davidson, this center has achieved a success rate of 65 percent, which is five times the national average. The efforts of The Healing Place have been so successful that this year Governor Ernie Fletcher has announced that it will serve as a model to 10 other shelter and recovery centers throughout Kentucky. In fact, this model has been effective enough that other branches of The Healing Place have been opened in Lexington, KY, Raleigh, NC, and Richmond, VA.

The citizens of Kentucky are fortunate to have the leadership of Jay Davidson. His example of dedication, hard work and compassion should be an inspiration to all throughout the Commonwealth.

He has my most sincere appreciation for this work and I look forward to his continued service to Kentucky.●

TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA M. DIXON

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the outstanding serv-

ice and dedication in the field of economic development of Mrs. Patricia M. Dixon, this on the occasion of her retirement from the Economic Development Administration, United States Department of Commerce effective today, September 28, 2005.

Mrs. Dixon has served honorably at the Economic Development Administration for 33 years, most recently and prominently as the Economic Development Representative to the State of South Carolina. Her contributions to economic development in South Carolina are numerous and have greatly contributed to the economic progress of the most distressed areas of the State. Her work has been widely recognized most notably by the South Carolina Association of Regional Councils, which awarded her their highest honor, the Outstanding Staff Award in 1991.

Mrs. Dixon has demonstrated her work in disaster recovery and base closures, saving jobs, solving solid waste problems, expanding job opportunities and rebuilding tax bases. Her innovative approaches to economic development problems and issues have been replicated in other communities. She also served as the first Federal cochair of the South Carolina Rural Development Council under the President's Initiative for Rural Development. Mrs. Dixon continues to serve on the executive committees of both the North and South Carolina rural development councils. In addition, she was instrumental in the original establishment of revolving loan funds for economic development districts in South Carolina.

Mrs. Dixon has garnered the personal and professional respect and admiration of her friends and colleagues at the Economic Development Administration and elsewhere. She represents the finest of qualities in a public servant and has been an incomparable asset to the greater effort of improving quality of life for the people of South Carolina. In conclusion, the retirement of Mrs. Patricia M. Dixon will be a great loss to the EDA and the State of South Carolina, but I wish her great success and happiness in her future.●

HONORING IOWA COMMUNITY LEADERS

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, every year the Iowa Council for International Understanding honors immigrants and refugees in Iowa who have, in the words of the council, "achieved, belonged and contributed to our community in a significant way."

The ICIU began in 1938 when a group of volunteers joined forces to aid immigrants fleeing the war in Europe. Since their founding, the ICIU has continued to provide cultural services to both the immigrant community and to native-born Iowans. The United States has always been a beacon of hope for many around the world seeking refuge from oppressive regimes, and it is my belief that each generation of immigrants has enriched our Nation both cul-

turally and economically. My mother was an immigrant from Slovenia, and I am proud to be a first generation American.

I take this opportunity to join in honoring the recipients of this year's ICIU awards and to thank and congratulate them for all they have achieved and contributed to Iowa's communities.

Joe Gonzalez was born in Mexico and immigrated to Des Moines in 1957. In 1971, he joined the Des Moines Police Department. He was one of the first Hispanic officers in the department and has garnered numerous awards, on both the State and national level, over his 33-year tenure. Among other things, Officer Gonzalez has been particularly active in aiding crime victims and victims of sexual and domestic abuse. After the September 11 attacks, he worked at Ground Zero.

Sonia Parras Konrad immigrated to the United States 9 years ago from Granada, Spain. She was trained as a lawyer and is most recently a graduate of Drake University Law School. Today she practices law in Iowa. Ms. Konrad is being honored today for her passionate dedication to helping victims of domestic and sexual violence, particularly within Spanish speaking communities. Among the programs she has founded is LUNA, Latinas Unidas por un Nuevo Amanecer—Latinas United for a New Dawn—designed to prevent and deal with the effects of domestic and sexual violence. This program has aided countless Iowans and has been used as a model in other states.

Juliet Cunningham emigrated from Kirkuk, Iraq, to the United States in 1979 to pursue advanced educational opportunities. She is actively involved with many Iowa institutions, including the Iowa State University Engineering and Research Complex, Des Moines Science Center, Society of Women Engineers and the West Des Moines United Methodist Church. In 1994 Mrs. Cunningham cofounded TEAM Services Inc., a soil, environmental, and construction materials consulting firm with her husband. Of particular note is her role in helping get a TEAM Services laboratory in central Iowa accredited for the testing of construction materials, making it the first laboratory in Iowa with these capabilities.

Dr. Liansuo Xie was born in 1958 and grew up in China's Hebei Province. He worked as a mechanic in a paper manufacturing plant there before studying to receive a B.S. from the Beijing Agricultural Engineering University in 1982. Shortly thereafter, he married and came to the U.S. to study further at Iowa State University where he eventually earned a Ph.D. and was honored with a Research Excellence award. He is widely considered to be one of the best engineers at the Townsend Engineering Company in Des Moines, where he has worked since 1990, for his work on project design and design productivity. Finally, Dr. Liansuo is a long-standing contributor to his community, serving as a founding member of

the Iowa Chinese Language School, the Sister States of Iowa, Hebei Committee, and acting as a tour guide for Chinese delegations to Iowa and the United States.

B.J. Do arrived in Iowa in 1975 at the age of 13. He arrived wearing only shorts and speaking very limited English, having fled Vietnam at the end of the Vietnam War. Despite his humble beginning, he went on to earn both B.S. and M.S. degrees in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Iowa. From there the sky was the limit, as Mr. Do went on to work on, design for, and manage projects for major international companies all over the United States. He has since returned to Iowa where he is the co-founder and CEO of ABC Virtual Communications, a software product and services company based in west Des Moines. He has received recognitions for his accomplishments from myriad institutions, including the University of Iowa and the State of Iowa, along with receiving the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 1999.

We are proud of their achievements and are pleased they are members of our communities. I am sure that ICIU would agree that for every story told here today, countless others remain untold.●

TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN

● Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to a historically significant anniversary for one of Southeast Missouri's most widely recognized and respected institutions. For the past year, the Southeast Missourian, located in Cape Girardeau, MO, has been celebrating its grand centennial.

Its first issue rolled off the presses on October 3, 1904, with George and Fred Naeter at the helm. The brothers had purchased the small business with hopes of one day transforming it into the thriving company thousands of faithful readers are familiar with today. After a number of changes, the Southeast Missourian was formally dedicated on September 11, 1925, at 301 Broadway.

Over the past several decades, the Southeast Missourian has provided timely reporting of the important changes in the region. Much of the area surrounding Cape Girardeau is rural. The Southeast Missourian has been a primary source of information to those readers. They depend on the Southeast Missourian for local, statewide, national and world news.

From the reports on flooding along the banks of the Mississippi River, to the birth announcements in the Sunday edition, the Southeast Missourian has a unique appeal that is difficult to match. They have set a precedent for excellence in print journalism with the underlying theme of community and public service. It's been a personal privilege over the years to be covered

by the paper's news department and to discuss ideas with its editorial board.

The Southeast Missourian has been instrumental in collaborating with its host city of Cape Girardeau to strengthen the community through local enterprise. And year after year the newspaper continues to give back countless charitable donations and sponsorships to the community.

I express my sincerest gratitude to the entire staff, past and present, for their contribution and dedication in making the Southeast Missourian the publication it is today. I extend warm congratulations to the Rust family, which has continued to raise the bar year after year in achieving excellence for fair and objective journalism. Joe Sullivan, the editor of the paper, in particular deserves credit for his hard work and professionalism. I hope for the next 100 years, the Southeast Missourian will continue to make a difference for the good in Southeast Missouri.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 9:34 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2385. An act to extend by 10 years the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to conduct the quarterly financial report program.

H.R. 3784. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

At 1:54 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2062. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 57 West Street in Newville, Pennsylvania, as the "Randall D. Shughart Post Office Building".

H.R. 3703. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8501 Philatelic Drive in Spring Hill, Florida, as the "Staff Sergeant Michael Schafer Post Office Building".

H.R. 3863. An act to provide the Secretary of Education with waiver authority for the reallocation rules in the Campus-Based Aid programs, and to extend the deadline by which funds have to be reallocated to institutions of higher education due to a natural disaster.

H.R. 3864. An act to assist individuals with disabilities affected by Hurricane Katrina or Rita through vocational rehabilitation services.

H.J. Res. 66. Joint resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "Lights On After-school!", a national celebration of after-school programs.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 209. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and expressing the sense of Congress that Congress should raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States and its devastating effects on families.

The message further announced that the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill H.R. 3200, an act to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that the House disagree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill H.R. 2360 making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints the following Members as the managers of the conference on the part of the House: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. WAMP, Mr. LATHAM, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CARTER, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. SABO, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. BERRY, Mr. EDWARDS, and Mr. OBEY.

At 3:13 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Croatt, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2132. An act to extend the waiver authority of the Secretary of Education with respect to student financial assistance during a war or other military operation or national emergency.

H.R. 3200. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3667. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 South Barrington Street in Los Angeles, California, as the "Karl Malden Station".

H.R. 3767. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located